

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ALICE TENNISON

**HON. HEATHER WILSON**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 4, 1999*

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to your attention the outstanding work of Alice Tennison.

Alice lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and is a constituent of mine. Recently, Alice won the Education's Unsung Heroes Award for mentoring students and founding the Student Mentorship in Education Project. The Student Mentorship in Education Project gives high school students hands-on experience in leading elementary school classrooms.

I would also like to thank ReliaStar Financial Corporation and Northern Life Insurance Company for sponsoring the event.

A good education helps students achieve their career and life goals. Alice Tennison has helped provide a quality education in New Mexico. Her work touches the lives of our next generation of teachers.

Alice Tennison continues to contribute to New Mexico education and I hope she will continue to do so well into the future. Mr. Speaker, I ask that we recognize and thank Alice Tennison for her achievement.

INNOVATIVE RESPONSES TO  
YOUTH VIOLENCE AND SCHOOL  
DROPOUTS RATES

**HON. ROBIN HAYES**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 4, 1999*

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, educators in communities across the country are searching for innovative methods to assist families in combating the threats that plague so many of our nation's high schools. Drugs, juvenile violence, high school students dropping out of their education: schools have a responsibility to partner with parents in safeguarding our children from these hazards.

In 1997, the last year for which we have reliable statistics available, there were 706,000 violent crimes involving teenagers. To reduce this number, we have to start early: as former Winston-Salem, North Carolina police chief George Sweat has said, "the fight against crime needs to start in the highchair, not wait for the electric chair."

Nationwide, 5 percent of students drop out of school. Only 40 percent of high school dropouts are employed. Dropping out often leads students to drifting, trouble and sometimes crime and time in jail. As the demands of the workplace grow more dependent upon high levels of literacy and technical skill, high school dropouts will increasingly face problems in getting and keeping jobs.

The American family is the bedrock of hope for instilling values in children that can keep

them on the right path. But our schools can help as well. The use of innovative methods to educate and encourage young people to respect themselves, to stay in school and out of trouble is essential. One such method is a public-private partnership to which over 40 percent of American schools belong. These schools work with the Channel One Network, an in-school news analysis program that reaches eight million American students daily. Studies have shown that public service announcements by this programmer for military recruitment and drug prevention have been extraordinarily effective. Students in Channel One Schools have more negative impressions of drug use. They are also more likely to consider enlisting in their nation's armed services.

I believe that schools must increase such effective programs in the areas of juvenile violence and high school dropout prevention. I intend to work hard to ensure that our government expands its support of our schools' efforts in this direction.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER MICHAEL  
LEWELLEN

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 4, 1999*

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Officer Michael Lewellen for his commendable service to the United States Armed Forces. It is with great pride that I present Mr. Lewellen with seven prestigious military awards and decorations including the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Air Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Combat Medical Badge, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon with Device.

Our nation is graced with many treasures, though none so precious as the peace we enjoy in our prosperous country. I am honored to commend Mr. Lewellen for his contribution to safeguarding that peace. It is one of our nation's great strengths that men and women have answered their country's call, and continue to heed it today to prevent the devastation we have witnessed too often this century.

Fortunately, our society has been blessed with many leaders who learned the values of leadership—responsibility, accountability and loyalty—while wearing the uniform of their country. For without their dedication to duty, we would not enjoy the many freedoms a fortunate America has to offer.

Again, I offer Mr. Lewellen my sincerest congratulations. I join together with everyone in this room to celebrate Mr. Lewellen's patriotism and to pay tribute to his service to our great nation.

BRINGING SMILES TO FLORIDA

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 4, 1999*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my warmest congratulations to the dental community in Florida for their great success with Project: Dentists Care (PDC), which facilitates access to dental care for indigent or underserved populations throughout the State. In a typical year, over 700 dentists donate more than 10,000 hours to treat 6,000–7,000 patients, providing close to a million dollars worth of dentistry, all at no charge.

Project: Dentists Care Began in Palm Beach County in 1992, and now enjoys success throughout the State. Money raised from fund raisers such as the annual Dentist's Day in October, including the ball, the silent auction and art sales, helps buy supplies and equipment needed for the programs.

I am pleased to support the efforts of Project: Dentists Care, and I urge my colleagues to join me as I extend my support and best wishes for a successful Dentist Day.

COMMANDER JACKIE W. KYGER

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 4, 1999*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend a gentleman who does an outstanding job commanding a Coast Guard Station in my district, Commander Jackie W. Kyger.

Commander Kyger is an absolutely superb man. He commands the South Padre Island Coast Guard Station in Port Isabel, Texas, in my district and he will be leaving Friday, August 6, for the private sector. If he carries the same gung-ho, can-do attitude that he has employed in his service to our country into the private sector, I have no doubt he will retire a millionaire.

The Port Isabel station has a very tough mission, which centers largely on drug interdiction. They have quite a small station, with a tremendous amount of space to cover. In the last Congress, it came to my attention that the station desperately needed new equipment. They were making do with surplus equipment in their quest to interdict drug smugglers along a large chunk of South Texas coast. We ask our Coast Guard to do so much: search and rescue, boat safety, drug interdiction and fishing regulation enforcement, among others.

It is just not right to give them that enormous responsibility without the equipment to do the job. In the next Coast Guard Authorization bill, I made sure to include committee report language stressing the need for new equipment, and as a result, the Port Isabel

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